



**RiteCare/SCHWA 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autism Spring Conference**  
**8:30 am – 3:30 pm March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - Missoula, MT**  
**4825 N. Reserve St. – Ruby's Inn**



## Executive Function Skills in Children and Adolescents

Join Montana native **Sarah Ward** as she defines executive function skills and typical development and discusses self-regulation, situational awareness, and self-talk. Ms. Ward will demonstrate the importance of teaching students forethought and hindsight, and how to know their goal and initiate a plan. Other topics include organized thinking, speed of processing, time management, and teaching students how to shift to make transitions and manage materials.

**Target Audience:** Special Educators, Educators, SLPs, Para-Educators, OTs, PTs, School Psychologist, Autism Specialists, Mental Health Professionals, Family Support Specialists, Parents, Students, Service Providers...

### Learner Outcomes

1. State the functional working definition of what is meant by the term “executive function skills” as it pertains to therapeutic interventions
2. Define how situational awareness, self-talk, forethought and episodic memory are the foundational skills for successful task execution
3. Develop an intervention program to foster a student’s ability to form more independent executive function skills by describing therapeutic activities to improve: \* Situational awareness and forethought \* Task planning, task initiation and transition within and between tasks \* Active self-management of the factors related to the passage of time \* Internal self-talk for initiating tasks \* Organized thinking and speed of processing \* Student management of homework and materials
4. Outline how professionals can collaborate with parents, teachers, and other professionals to implement an executive function based treatment program both in and outside of the classroom

### Presenter

**Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP** has over 19 years of experience in diagnostic evaluations, treatment, and case management of children, adolescents, and adults with language learning disabilities, nonverbal learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, executive dysfunction, Asperger disorders and social pragmatics. Her particular specialty is in the assessment and treatment of executive function deficits. Ms. Ward holds a faculty appointment at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions where she provides instruction to graduate level students in the assessment and treatment of individuals with traumatic brain injury and other cognitive communication disorders. A popular speaker, Sarah regularly presents locally and nationally on the topic of executive functions to a variety of professional and parent organizations, school and lay groups. She has presented to and consulted with over 450 public and private schools in Massachusetts and across the United States. Awards received include the MGH Expertise in Clinical Practice Award, the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Faculty in Excellence Award from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions (2002, 2011).

**Continuing Education:** OPI Credit, Certification of Completion, ASHA CEUs approval pending (Free to MSHA members)

**Fees (including lunch):** Early Bird price ends Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>: Professionals \$80, Parents & Paras \$55, Students \$40

Typical Bird: Professionals \$100, Parents and Paras \$75, Students \$60

**Registration Information:** <https://pd4montana.hrmpplus.net/Home.aspx> Course # 4978

**Scholarship Information:** Student (CSD, Ed., Counselor Ed., School Psych. Etc.) Scholarships: Email [ddoty@mt.gov](mailto:ddoty@mt.gov)

**Professional/Para-educator Scholarships:** CSPD Scholarships pending.

**PLUK Parent Scholarships:** <http://pluk.org/scholarship/parent-training-scholarship.pdf>

### Montana Autism Education Project



Montana Speech-Language-Hearing Association is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.



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